

ten advanced lunettes. — The river  
bridged here, and forms an island

on an advanced lunette. The river bridge here, and forms an island in the center, which is strongly fortified. This bridge is also defended by a strong bridge-head, with three bastions and two ravines. Commanding elevations on both sides of the river are the enemy's batteries. The village of Thionville, if captured, might not be very great so long as Metz should remain intact, unless as a second base for operations on the Moselle. Metz being far the strongest, still enjoying easy communication with the east as well as the south and west.

The Moselle furnishes the most direct possible line of operations

between France and Prussia; it runs deep, almost on the direct line between Berlin and Paris; and whoever party should undertake an invasion, would require a strong special reason for operating on any other line. We have found the French part of Moselle and the neighboring districts to be strongly guarded, and we came to an examination of the German defenses of the Moselle line.

Luxemburg was Holland's strongest fortress; and for guarding the frontier and defending the Rhine, as well as for the purpose of attacking the invasion of France no better position can be found. The dismantling of the works was nevertheless consented to, as the price of peace, and the work of destruction is so partial and advances so slowly, as still to

is not surprising, for though the Persian soldiers are missed from streets and walls, and two or three

the outward aspect of the rugged eastern face has not changed in a single century, and in case of war, the first body of troops to reach the town would find a position well-nigh impregnable, and the only advantage of one of the strongest places in Europe. Yet its strength is more natural than artificial, and no combination of power can expect to raze nature's bulwark by a mere word, even though it be more just word than that which doomed this fortress. Can either Poland or Prussia be required to fill at enormous cost the immense ravine which almost encircles the great fortress, or to blow up the castles hewn in the face of the living rock?

The only well advanced Prussian fortress for the defense of the Rhine on the frontier, is Saarbrück—a small but antiquated work on the Saar, the chief tributary of the Moselle. The

entirely inadequate to the demand for an advanced post to hold the enemy in check while the army is mobilized and brought forward, or the base of operations against Metz, Toul, Verdun and Paris. The only important and practicable roads from here to Metz, Verdun, Mayence, Mannheim and Landau. The unfished town of Sedan boasts of a strategic junction of excellent Maasland roads leading to all of these important points. It is proposed to build several single forts in the most important passes of this district. We learn from Lieutenant Widders a German officer, to whom are indebted for many cartographical delineations, as well as narrations of the Rhine campaign between 1792 and 1815. Widders

deyes to the Rhine—should be deemed as far forward as possible, declared the Germans unworthy to possess it if they would seek to defend it, standing behind it. He looks up the valley of the Moselle, in the vicinity of Treves, as the Paris gate of Germany, and laments that it is carelessly left open. He advocates restoration of Montroyal, as a substitute for Luxembourg. The former stronghold was razed in obedience to the terms of the peace of Ryswick. It lay on the river, about twenty miles below Treves, in a position strong by nature, and commanded not only all water and land communications along the Moselle, but also the road over the Hunsrück to Bingen.

the Rhine is Ehrenbreitstein, opposite Koblenz and the mouth of Moselle. This is an elaborate fort laid upon, or hewn into, a rocky cliff which proudly lifts itself 570' above the right bank of the river, overlooks a large landscape to west and south. On the north, however, are higher hills, which descend gradually from Ehrenbreitstein and from which the fort is bombarded with great facility. The writer of this was positively and persistently refused permission to even line this exposed side of the fort in order to take the view thence. This delicacy can hardly be to commend the strength of the place. Yet it would seem that two or three lines of fortified works have been skillfully engineered and thoroughly built on

wink at, so that the Prussian engineers pronounce it as strong; the facts more favored by nature. This is quite possible, for the eastern face has also an evident element of weakness in the high wall built of small and irregular stones, enlarge the area of the fortress and present a more regular front. The walls are not calculated to resist modern projectiles, and will surely be lowered down with dispatch as soon as the enemy's guns get into position within range. Whether such damage would affect the (sanctity, or only the beauty of the fortress, is an open question. The bomb-proofs are represented as very strong, and would not be weakened though all the artificial walls were broken up.

rolled down into the Rhine. Un-  
ominous, however, that admission  
all of the interior covered paraf  
fort is also refused to stranger  
lost the French entered the v  
from the northeast side with v  
tie difficultly, having first creat  
diversion for the garrison. Late  
Directoray fall siege to the cit  
and after three failures final  
tured 31. We are given to unde  
that a failure of supplies was the o  
sion of the surrender. But some  
manded that Colonel Falke, who  
manded the place during the sie  
knowledgeed that the French en  
had wrought irreparable misch  
made the post untenable, and th  
failure of supplies scarcely hast  
the surrender. The French blew  
the whole fort upon their occupa

after which with Prussia devoted ten years to the restoration and perfection of the works, so that now they ought to be as alive as much fire as did Fort Sumter. Ehrenbreitstein admits a garrison of fourteen thousand men, and its magazines will hold provisions enough for this force for five years. A well of the rock furnishes an unending supply of water. At the foot of Ehrenbreitstein, at the water's edge, a new casemated work nearly finished, which is intended to be both-proof and is designed to sweep the river in short range, where the guns of the fortress would be harmless on account of the great depression of the river. Fort Asterfeld is a little to the same side of the river, a little to the south. It is a separate fort of considerable size, situated on a promontory

The city of Coblenz is surrounded by a strong wall, which is pierced by the land side by only two gates, and these are secured by crenelated towers. The walls of the town, however, are not so reached without a struggle, on the same side, both of the Rhine and the Moselle, are the two forts, Alexandre and Constant, supported by a third work, which, quite small, Fort Alexandre is the strongest and most important in the vicinity, except Ehrenbreitstein. It lies on the Karthause hill about three hundred and twenty feet higher than the city, and would naturally be the object of the first attack of the enemy in case of a siege.

\* "Der Rhein und die Rheinfelder  
von Georg Cardinal von Widdern  
Berlin, 1866.

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